

Please add new claims 17-20, as follows:

Sub B1
17. (New) In a cable including an outer metallic sheath, at least one metallic conductor therein, and mineral insulation disposed between the outer sheath and the metallic conductor; the improvement wherein the mineral insulation comprises between 3% and 20% by dry weight of kaolin, wherein the kaolin prevents moisture from infiltrating the insulation and increases the resistivity of the insulation at high temperatures.

18. (New) A process of making a cable, comprising:
providing an outer metallic sheath;
disposing at least one metallic conductor in the metallic sheath;
filling the metallic sheath with mineral insulation including between 3% and 20% by dry weight of kaolin, wherein the kaolin prevents moisture from infiltrating the insulation and increases the resistivity of the insulation at high temperatures; and
drawing down the metallic sheath.

19. (New) In a cable including an outer metallic sheath, at least one metallic conductor therein, and mineral insulation disposed between the outer sheath and the metallic conductor; the improvement wherein the mineral insulation comprises kaolin, wherein the kaolin prevents moisture from infiltrating the insulation and increases the resistivity of the insulation at high temperatures.

20. (New) A process of making a cable, comprising:
providing an outer metallic sheath;
disposing at least one metallic conductor in the metallic sheath;
filling the metallic sheath with mineral insulation including kaolin, wherein the kaolin prevents moisture from infiltrating the insulation and increases the resistivity of the insulation at high temperatures; and
drawing down the metallic sheath.